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Chief of Police

NEW HAVEN
DEPARTMENT OF POLICE SERVICE
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Toni N. Harp
Mayor

December 17, 2014

Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

Docket 07-114

Dear Commissioners:

It's no secret that people are becoming more and more reliant on mobile phones for communication. There are pluses and minuses to that from a public safety perspective. On the one hand, people can call for help anytime, anywhere. However, the technology on the receiving end of that call is outdated and can make it challenging to accurately pinpoint where the call is coming from.

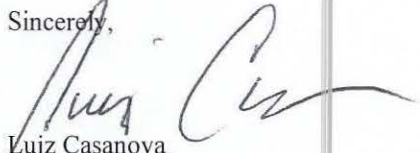
About 70 percent of the 911 calls made in Connecticut are made from cellphones. In recognition of this reality, a next-generation 911 (NG911) telephone system is being installed in the state. This is an important step, but more can and should be done to ensure that 911 callers in Connecticut and throughout the country receive the help they need as quickly as possible.

I applaud the FCC for encouraging the development of a public safety-wireless industry consensus plan on location accuracy for 911 callers and am writing to express my support for the plan put forth by APCO, NENA, AT&T, Verizon, Sprint, and T-Mobile. This plan goes beyond the FCC's proposal and should be regarded as *the* blueprint for improving 911 location accuracy. Once implemented, the public safety community will be better situated to protect the people we serve – and ultimately save lives – especially in urban areas. In New Haven, for example, it would be possible to more accurately pinpoint where a call was coming from inside towering office buildings and hotels. That accuracy will help us speed up response times, and when you're responding to a 911 call, every second counts.

In addition to identifying a dispatch-able location, the plan relies on Wi-Fi and Bluetooth, which are proven, existing technologies rather than an unproven, proprietary technology, which is being pushed in an alternative plan. The consensus plan also lays out a clear timeline for implementation, which will keep the process moving in a meaningful way.

The consensus proposal is the right proposal for improving 911 location accuracy and should be approved.

Sincerely,


Luiz Casanova
Assistant Chief of Police
New Haven Police Department

Dedicated to Protecting Our Community

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